

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 43, Number 1 - January/February, 2012

## Environmental Roulette: What You Don't Know May Harm You!

By Sue Williams

The Tennessee Chapter's Tenth Annual Environmental Justice Conference was held on Nov. 5 with the timely theme of "Environmental Roulette: What you don't know may harm you!" Hosted by the regional environmental justice office in Memphis, the Tennessee Chapter, and the Chickasaw Group, the tenth anniversary gathering was celebrated in a spacious new conference venue with the largest attendance in years.

A plenary opening session included comments by two state legislators, Sen. Beverly Marrero and Rep. Barbara Cooper, both from Memphis. Sen. Marrero, an environmental champion, serves on the Senate's environmental committee. Rep. Cooper has promoted community environmental awareness for many years because many of Memphis' polluting industries are within her district that runs along the riverfront.

Workshop sessions offered information about nuclear waste, genetically engineered food, drinking water, air quality, toxic landfills, the benefits of landscaping with native plants and other topics.

A noon media conference focused on nuclear waste. Rep. Cohen attended this event. Tennessee receives 75% of the nation's so-called low-level, but not low-risk, waste for processing. Tennessee is the only state that permits radioactive waste incineration; there are four incinerators in East Tennessee, and a proposed incinerator on President's Island (2005) in Memphis was cancelled due to citizen pressure.

In Memphis, highly radioactive metals are processed on President's Island and two of four Tennessee radioactive waste dumps are in Shelby County.

"A leak from the landfill could contaminate Memphis' drinking water," said Chickasaw Group Chair Keven Routon.

Don Safer, of Tennessee Environmental Council, added: "Tennessee allows radioactive waste processing and disposal practices that are unique in the U.S. and the world. This has made Tennessee the nation's primary pathway for the processing and disposal of low-level radioactive waste materials, amounting to 75% or more of this dangerous waste stream annually."

Panelists also included Chapter member Ann Harris, who is on the Sierra Club's national nuclear task force. Sen. Marrero pledged to continue urging better protections during the next legislative session.

Special guest, National Sierra Club President Robin Mann, also noted the need to promote clean energy solutions. "There are so many communities across Tennessee that are ignored and suffering because of lax



(L-R) National Sierra Club President Robin Mann, Regional Environmental Justice Organizer Rita Harris, Chickasaw Group Chair Keven Routon, Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton

environmental enforcement and questionable business practices that put profit before safe communities and meaningful environmental protection," she said. "We must all keep pushing for relief for communities struggling with various types of environmental problems."

Lunch included a retrospective video with scenes from the past 10 years of the environmental justice work within the region, serenaded by "environmental troubadour," Marvin Butler, premiering his new song, "We Need Environmental Justice."

This year, a three-person panel of activists served as the "keynote address" to spotlight communities that are struggling to achieve environmental justice. Speakers included Harrell Carter, NAACP President in Madison County, representing an African-American community in Denmark, where residents have been pleading with the Madison County commissioners to get zoning changed to prevent a private construction and debris landfill from destroying their quiet

community.

Michael Melton, a Camden pastor and resident whose property borders an aluminum dross landfill that daily emits smothering noxious fumes such as ammonia and other toxic gases, spoke about the fight the Camden community has waged against the landfill owner and their numerous requests for relief to the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation.

The final panelist, Fayette County resident Gary Bullwinkel, spoke passionately about his five-year battle to keep an industrial "megasite" from overtaking the nearby historical community of Fredonia and 3,000 adjacent acres in bordering Haywood County.

The common thread in all of the EJ stories is the detrimental impact of injustice when it comes to dealing with rural, low-income, environmental justice communities, and the assumption that our government agencies will protect us from harm and negative consequences.

After the panel, the annual Dick Mochow Environmental Justice Awards were presented to four worthy activists from the Camden fight to protect their community from the devastating effects of an aluminum dross landfill. The leaders of the opposition to the landfill and recipients of the 2011 Dick Mochow Award are: Michael Melton, Travis Busby, Mark Totty, and Cindy Wheatley. The awards are named for the late Dick Mochow, a co-founder of the Memphis environmental justice office, who also served as a group, chapter and national leader promoting environmental justice and wetlands protection.

Now you can receive your

# Tennes-Sierran

## via email



Subscribe simply by going to

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/subscribe.htm>

How does it work? Monthly you will receive an email notification and download link for your new Tennes-Sierran in a special email alert. All you will have to do is click on the link and presto, your Tennes-Sierran will appear in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format. View it, download it, save it but whatever the case you will be saving trees, and freeing Tennessee Chapter club funding to work for other conservation efforts. A double whammy win situation!

## So Join the Crowd and Go Paperless Today!

# Tennes-Sierran

The bi-monthly newsletter of the  
Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

## SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

- \*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)
- \*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail
- \*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

## SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: [bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
Snail Mail: Barbara Kelly, Communications Chair  
3524 Pinellas Lane  
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1730  
(423) 718-5009

**We are still conducting a search for an editor for the Tennes-Sierran. Please contact Barbara if you are interested.**

## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Submission DEADLINE is the 1st of the month preceding the new month's issue.
1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org) either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
  2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
  3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
  4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.
- The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

## VOLUNTEER TENNES-SIERRAN EDITOR NEEDED

Please contact  
**Barbara Kelly**  
if you are interested.  
[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
(423) 718-5009



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. The air around these farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would allow factory farms to be free from health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

Cause a stink. JOIN Sierra Club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive  
a FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) F94Q  1

# Sierra Club Officers

## TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
[Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com)  
Vice Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009  
[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
Treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 217-0985  
[rmvarnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmvarnell@bellsouth.net)  
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185  
[GB1Nature@aol.com](mailto:GB1Nature@aol.com)  
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
CCL Delegate: Brian Paddock (931) 276-1387  
[bpaddock@twlakes.net](mailto:bpaddock@twlakes.net)

## TN LOCAL GROUPS:

### Cherokee Group

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee)  
Chair: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616  
[wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 866-9503  
[barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com)  
Conser. Chair: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616  
[wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009  
[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
Outings: Leslie Jakobs (423) 886-2465  
[lesliejakobs@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliejakobs@yahoo.com)

### Chickasaw Group - Memphis

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw)  
Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960  
[kwrats@me.com](mailto:kwrats@me.com)  
Vice Chair: JW Johnson (901) 850-9375  
[bubo1@bellsouth.net](mailto:bubo1@bellsouth.net)  
Secretary: Emily Schwimmer (901) 753-5474  
[eschwimm@gmail.com](mailto:eschwimm@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Susan Routon (901) 413-3888  
[susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com)  
Conservation Chair: Scott Banbury  
Outings Chair: Matt Farr 901-517-8879  
[matt.tennessierran@gmail.com](mailto:matt.tennessierran@gmail.com)  
Membership  
Co-Chairs: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299  
[hooverkw@yahoo.com](mailto:hooverkw@yahoo.com)  
Don Richardson (901) 276-1387  
[donrich@juno.com](mailto:donrich@juno.com)

### Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome)  
Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435  
[robin.hill8@gmail.com](mailto:robin.hill8@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: David Reister (865) 670-8991  
[dreister@bellsouth.net](mailto:dreister@bellsouth.net)  
Secretary: VACANT - Volunteer Wanted  
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 675-7668  
[perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com)  
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518  
[ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net)

### Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg)  
Chair: Keith Romig (615) 714-2704  
[krsp@aol.com](mailto:krsp@aol.com)  
Vice Chair: Dave Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377  
[dabordenkircher@mindspring.com](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com)  
Conservation: Joel Gearhardt (941) 518-0063  
[clifford.cockerham@mnp.org](mailto:clifford.cockerham@mnp.org)  
Treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 217-0985  
[rmvarnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmvarnell@bellsouth.net)  
Membership: Betsy Garber, (615) 668-1977  
[garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com)  
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
[katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com);  
[kdpendleton1@aol.com](mailto:kdpendleton1@aol.com)

### Watauga Group - Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga)  
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044  
[sunshine@highcountryonline.net](mailto:sunshine@highcountryonline.net)  
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson (423) 768-3882  
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214  
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)

### National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Field Organizer  
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757  
[rita.harris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.harris@sierraclub.org)

Please notify the Editor when changes  
are needed

## New Design

## Footprints T-Shirts

Black print quotation:

"The human spirit needs places where  
nature has not been rearranged by the  
hand of man on gray background - Unknown Author"  
on gray background.



**New Footprints Design**

Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Small	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Medium	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
XX-Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
		Sub-Total	_____
Shipping - Enter			_____
Total # of T-Shirts	_____ X	\$6.50	= _____
		Grand Total	= _____

Please make checks payable to:  
TN Chapter Sierra Club  
Mail To:  
T-Shirt Order Fulfillment  
P. O. Box 290306 - Nashville, TN 37229

OR

Visit us on-line at:  
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/footprints.htm>

To pay by e-check or credit card  
(sorry, credit cards only accepts via on-line orders)

# Learn from Naturalists, Enjoy Good Company, Listen to Gifted Performer at Tennessee Chapter's Winter Retreat January 20-22, 2012 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park

We will explore this beautiful state park, learn from naturalists and relax in the company of good friends, old and new. Plan for a relaxed weekend close to nature and feel free to participate, if you choose, in the chapter executive committee meeting. Prices are low, and there are bunk house accommodations. Please bring your own linens, towels, toiletries and other personal supplies.

Saturday evening will feature the music of Antoinette Olesen, an award-winning songwriter who has toured internationally and performed with numerous world-class artists. Her songs feature big choruses and picturesque melodies on the Sheryl Crow / Jack Johnson side of pop. She describes herself as "environmentally friendly, 0 pollution." It will be a real treat to hear this gifted performer.

Friday January 20

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Registration / check-in

Saturday January 21

7:00 am – Breakfast

8:00 am – Chapter conservation meeting begins

9:00 am – Morning hike (to be announced)

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – Communications Committee meeting

2:00 pm – Budget Committee meeting

2:00 pm – Afternoon hike (to be announced)

3:00 pm – Chapter administrative meeting begins

7:00 pm – Dinner

8:00 pm – Program: Music with an environmental flavor with Antoinette Olesen

Sunday January 22

7:00 am – Nature devotional with Dr. Cliff Cockerham

8:00 am – Breakfast

9:00 am – Sunday morning hike (to be announced)

Early Bird Price: \$40; must register by January 6.

January 7 and after: \$50

One-day-only price with meals (no lodging), Saturday \$20.

Special: One-half price for first-time attendees! Free for Age 15 and under.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to Michael Varnell, Tennessee Chapter Treasurer: [rmvarnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmvarnell@bellsouth.net).

To register: Contact Keith Romig, 615-714-2704, [krsp@aol.com](mailto:krsp@aol.com).

Registering before January 6 gets you in at the Early Bird Price!

## Your Support Needed to Defend Tennessee's Environment

By Adelle Wood

The Sierra Club Defenders campaign, which funds our legislative and lobbying work, is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year! We have been delighted to see contributions of every size from towns large and small across the state, but we also need your support. When we get involved our legislators learn that it is we, their constituents, who care about the environment in every part of our state.

Some of the most important issues we worked on in the last legislative session included:

- A hard-fought battle supporting a bill to stop mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining;
- A significant victory in helping stop an amendment that would have a major impact on water quality;
- Inclusion by the Governor in his budget, and legislative approval, of \$16,514,700 for the State Lands Acquisition fund;
- A resolution passed urging TDEC, the oil and gas industry, and citizen groups to work together to develop appropriate state regulations for hydrological fracturing (fracking).

In addition, because of strong opposition by the Sierra Club and its allies, a bill that would have increased the allowed limit of toxic selenium in Tennessee's waters did not even come up in the past session.

In the coming legislative session Sierra Club will support:

- Continued efforts to prohibit mountaintop mining;
- Protection of clean water from threats from any sources;
- Revisiting the fracking issue unless the state has adopted appropriate regulations;
- Efforts to regulate nuclear dumping in Tennessee;
- Continued dedicated funding for lands acquisition for parks, wetlands, woods, wildlife protection;
- Fighting budget cuts and "deregulation" proposals that threaten environmental protections;
- Prevention of weakening amendments to environmental protection laws; and
- All other efforts to protect our environment.

We win battles but must continue the war to protect our natural heritage. Please support this grassroots campaign. Complete the form below. Send it with your check made out to Sierra Club to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. These contributions are not tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

Adelle Wood, Defenders of Tennessee

Amount of donation    \$75    \$150    \$250    \$1,000    \_\_\_\_\_    Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

We will not divulge contact information.

Check here if you want to receive regular e-mail updates (e-mail address required) during the legislative session.

May we thank you in the Sierra Club newsletter?    Yes    No

No acknowledgement letter needed. Save Defender funds for program purposes.

Donations to this fund are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes

We thank Defender contributors through November 28.

Andrew Abernathy  
Jean Bangham  
James Blackstock  
Jeanne Bolen  
Robert Brandt  
Penny Brooks  
Clark Buchner  
Charles and Marion Burger  
Craig Canan  
Stewart Clifton  
Carol Cubberley  
Walter Cygan  
Mary L. Lynn Dobson  
Mary Dresser  
Steven Dronen  
Larry and Carolyn Dunn  
Frances Duvall  
Nancy and Nick Fariello  
Betsy Garber  
Jonatha Gibaud  
Carol and Gary Gramelbauer  
Brenda Harper  
Charles High  
Alan Householder

James Ivey  
Charles R. Knox  
Reginald Lowe, Jr.  
Joy Mayfield  
David L. McFalls  
Laura Miller  
John Noel & Melinda Welton  
Jane Norris  
Margaret Olson  
Arlo & Debbie Owens  
Donna Parker  
Ray Payne  
Sam Powell  
David & Willa Reister  
Denny Reiter  
Don Scharf & Teri Davis  
Phil & Maxine Schoggen  
Ron Shrieves  
Robert Stanley  
John Thomas  
Dean Whitworth  
Judith S. Wood  
Dr. & Mrs. G. Wallace Wood  
Dr. Herbert Zeman

# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**January 10, 2012, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Topic: *Ghost Birds*. Presenter: Lyn Bales, writer/photographer/artist Tennessee naturalist and natural historian with Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville, Tenn.**

*Ghost Birds* is not just a book about the ivory-billed woodpecker, though that would be quite enough. It is the story of conservation's beginnings in a rapidly changing, war-torn world, a time when sound recordings, movies, and still photography were barely versatile enough to be used "in the field" and field observations were new and uncharted territory.

With his expert storytelling skills, Bales sets a vivid stage, giving not only sensory detail, but the deeper context of history and prevailing mood of the time when James Tanner, a young biologist, faces an enormous challenge—learning everything there is to know about ivory-billed woodpeckers.

For more information, contact Mac Post [mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com).

**February 14, 2012, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Topic: *It's All About the Hat: A Summer at Acadia National Park, Maine*. Presenter: Linda Morrison, Interpreter, U.S. National Park Service.**

**March 13, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.**

**Topic: *Preview of Harvey Broom Group 2011 Outings Program*. Presenter: Ron Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group, Outings Coordinator.**

The annual outings program provides a preview of the HBG's outings program for 2012 and a slideshow from past outings. Included in this year's program are 10 backpack trips, 20 day hikes, 2 canoe/kayak day trips, and a bicycle trip. This year we will again offer the HBG "Take-a-Hike" program, a series of day hikes that will increase the skills and confidence of first-time hikers. A special feature of these beginner day hikes is that they will provide a guided tour of all the major ecosystem types in the biologically diverse Great Smoky Mountains. Invite anyone who is interested in exploring the outdoors to come and find out more about HBG outings.

**STRATEGY MEETINGS:** Fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. For additional information, contact Robin Hill, 865-966-9435, [robin.hill8@gmail.com](mailto:robin.hill8@gmail.com). All members and guests are invited to attend to get the news on what's happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM: January 12, 7:00 p.m., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Topic: *A View of Earth (From Space)*. Presenter: Rocky Alvey, Director of Vanderbilt's Dyer Observatory.**

*"The Earth was small, light blue, and so touchingly alone, our home that must be defended like a holy relic."* Aleksei Leonov, USSR Astronaut

Rocky Alvey, Director of Vanderbilt's Dyer Observatory, will join us to share a glimpse of Earth from the perspective of an expert astronomer. He will speak about how new technology developed for space exploration contributes to our understanding of Earth, the Sun-Earth relationship, and global climate changes.

Alvey has been involved in amateur astronomy since 1970. He has conducted

educational programs and public outreach for the last 11 years and treated countless individuals to views through his telescopes. Partnering with the Canadian firm, [mytelescope.com](http://mytelescope.com), Alvey was instrumental in establishing the first university-based internet-accessible robotic telescope in North America.

Conceptual creator of the AstroCantus mobile app, Alvey combined science and art. AstroCantus turns the sky into an endless, beautiful score of infinite musical and educational possibilities. As stars, galaxies, and nebulae touch the celestial meridian, they play an instrument and scale which each individual selects. AstroCantus converts the celestial map into an infinite musical soundtrack, from a delicate nocturne to a vast space symphony.

**PROGRAM: February 9, 7:00 p.m., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Rain Garden Workshop!**

You've been asking for this. Mekayle Houghton of the Cumberland River Compact (<http://www.cumberlandrivercompact.org/index.shtml>) will instruct us in how to plan, build, and maintain a rain garden. A rain garden filters rainwater, improves water quality, and reduces flooding and drought, all while creating natural habitat and reducing the grass you have to mow!

Everyone is invited, and Davidson County rain gardens qualify for free rain garden plants from the Cumberland River Compact. Don't miss out on this opportunity to improve your yard and help Nashville reduce pollution in its waterways.

We are excited about these two programs and hope to see you there.

**STRATEGY MEETINGS: January 10 and February 14, 6:30 p.m., at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.** Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. **Please note that the meeting dates may change depending on the needs of the newly-elected Executive Committee. Please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 if you want to confirm.**

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**January Strategy Meeting: January 9 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 pm,** at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end, inside near the indoor waterfall. At this meeting we will elect officers for 2012 and set our conservation priorities. All members are welcome. To place an item on the agenda, contact Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or [wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com), preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

**January Program: Last Monday, January 30, 7 pm, at Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: *Bike Share Chattanooga*. Jeremy Pomp, general manager of the new Bike Chattanooga, will talk to us about the exciting Bike Share program beginning in Chattanooga. Bring your friends—spread the word! The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served.**

**February Strategy Meeting: February 13 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 pm,** at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome—this is where and when we plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or [wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com), preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

**February Program: Last Monday, February 27, 7 pm, at Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: *Riverwalk Expansion*. Rick Wood, Trust for Public Lands, will talk to us about two of the Trust's current projects—the expansion of the Riverwalk from Ross' Landing to Lookout Mountain, and the newly completed South Chickamauga Creek Greenway. Come and hear the latest developments. Bring your friends—spread the word! The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served.**

*Note: Our program meetings continue to be held at Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a non-descript storefront building with little-to-no signage—it is last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kitty-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!*

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly email events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

**STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., Republic Coffee, 2924 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. (NOTE: New Location!!)**

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair Keven Routon [kwratcs@me.com](mailto:kwratcs@me.com). Agenda items must be submitted at least three days before the meeting.

**PROGRAM: January 19, MOVIE NIGHT, 5:30 p.m., Benjamin Hooks Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN.**

It was a great year in 2011 for green-themed cinema. When we looked at the Academy Award lineup of films, we were thrilled to see a number of environmentally focused documentaries nominated for the 2011 OSCARS. Unfortunately, none of these excellent nominees won a gold statue, but we're happy to see them nominated all the same, and hope this platform elevates the profile of these important issues. If you are interested in documentaries, join us for an environmental MOVIE NIGHT on January 19. We will select our film title after January 1. Watch for an announcement on our Website, Facebook, and in your local newspaper.

**PROGRAM: February 26, 5:30 p.m., Benjamin Hooks Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN. Program contents TBA.**

**STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m., Republic Coffee, 2924 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. (NOTE: New Location!!)**

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair Keven Routon [kwratcs@me.com](mailto:kwratcs@me.com). Agenda items must be submitted at least three days before the meeting.

**PROGRAM: February 26, 5:30 p.m., Benjamin Hooks Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN. Program contents TBA.**

**Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns. Updates and details about upcoming events are posted here.

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

**PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.** Please contact Gloria Griffith at [gla4797@earthlink.net](mailto:gla4797@earthlink.net) or 423-727-4797 for more information.

# Outings

**Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of outings in our Chapter. Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome to attend as many across the state as you wish! We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect.**

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver> PDF, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

## **HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)**

**Jan. 14 (Sat) Take-a-Hike, Old Sugarlands Trail, GSMNP.** This trail ultimately climbs about 1,000 feet to its junction with the Bullhead Trail, but we may not get that far, as there are several interesting historical relics to examine along the way. These are mostly remnants of CCC facilities used during the construction of park infrastructure in the 1930's and 40's. And with any luck, we'll encounter a bit of snow and you'll get a little exposure to winter hiking in the Smokies. Distance 6-8 miles total, depending on how far up the trail we go. Rated moderate. Drive: 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**Jan. 20-22 (Fri-Sun) Winter Tennessee Chapter Meeting, Cedars of Lebanon State Park,** hosted by the Middle Tennessee Group, Chair: Keith Romig, [krsp@aol.com](mailto:krsp@aol.com).

**Jan. 28-29 (Sat-Sun) Winter Backpack, Little Frog Wilderness.** The Little Frog Wilderness, adjacent to the Ocoee River near Ducktown, TN and the infamous Copper Basin, is a great example of how relatively small areas can be set aside to preserve critical wilderness. Rated moderate. Driving distance, 75 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**Feb. 11 (Sat) Take-a-Hike, White Oak Sink, GSMNP.** While usually renowned for its wildflowers, the White Oak Sink has something to offer in winter too, especially if there's a bit of snow on the ground and ice on the streams. This hike starts on the Schoolhouse Gap trail and then off trail into the Sink. Distance about 7 miles. Rated moderate. Driving distance, 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**Feb. 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Spring Breakout Backpack, Rock Creek Loop, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.** This is a 7.1 mile loop trail within the Big South Fork adjacent to Pickett State Forest. We will begin this backpack at the Hattie-Blevins cemetery, hiking along the ridgetop and then descending down to Massey Branch Creek to Rock Creek, a tributary of the Big South Fork. We will camp along Rock Creek. On Sunday, we will continue along Rock Creek, cross the Pickett State Forest boundary, and then hike back up to the ridgetop. The trail includes several creek crossings (mostly footbridges), rock houses, remnants of the Stearns Logging Railroad, and waterfalls. If there is interest, we can make a side trip to see some arches and/or rock houses following the backpack. Rated moderate. The driving distance is about 90 miles from West Knoxville. Contact BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 675-7668.

## **MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)**

No outings are scheduled for January-February.

## **CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)**

*The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. Leslie Jakobs serves as our Outings Chair and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee, gaining an appreciation of how wonderful, and sometimes threatened, our area is—while having fun. Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Leslie at 423-886-2465 or [lesliejakobs@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliejakobs@yahoo.com).*

## **Jan. 14 or 15 (Sat. or Sun.) Tenn. Sandhill Crane Festival, Birchwood.**

We'll be visiting the festival, which celebrates the thousands of Sandhill cranes (and some Whoopers) that migrate through or spend the winter at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers near Birchwood. There will be speakers, films and children's activities centered on the cranes and on the rich Native American history of the area.

A special guest this year is **John James Audubon**, as depicted by Brian Fox Ellis, an engaging and entertaining storyteller.

We'll meet at Birchwood Elem. School, and go by free shuttle bus over to the TN Wildlife Resources Hiwassee Refuge. While the festival is spread over two days, we'll pick one day for our outing closer to the date when we know the schedule of activities better. Contact Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-4729 or [campfamily63@gmail.com](mailto:campfamily63@gmail.com) for details and to register.

**Feb. TBA (Sun.) Raccoon Mountain trip to view Bald Eagles.** Check our local E-News or our Cherokee Sierra Facebook page for details, which will be announced closer to time.

## **CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)**

**No outings were planned for January-February as of press time. Contact Matt Farr, outings chair, at 901-517-8879 for a list of outings or go to the Group's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>.**

**We are still conducting a search for an editor for the Tennes-Sierran. Please contact Barbara Kelly at [bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net) (423-718-5009) if you are interested.**

## **Ten Essentials for Hiking**



Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be modified according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

# Fifth Annual Sustainability Summit Shows Progress Achieved

By Don Safer

The 2011 Tennessee Sustainable Economy Summit held in Nashville at Lipscomb University on October 28-29 provided hopeful evidence of our society's move toward true sustainability. It also provided helpful guidance for those who recognize the importance of making these moves as quickly as possible. A compelling case was made for crafting a viable future for generations to come. Tangible steps were identified and endorsed.

The summit was a collaboration of several groups that have hosted separate conferences in the past: the Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Conservation Voters, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Tennessee Alliance for Progress, Tennessee Higher Education Sustainability Association, and Living Well Events. Substantial financial and volunteer support was provided by the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. Many Sierra Club members were participants and presenters.

The panelists and speakers included activists, academics, businesspeople, and government officials. Featured speakers included permaculture/ eco-village expert Albert Bates; author Amanda Little; Vanderbilt Professor David Hess; TDEC Deputy Commissioner Shari Meghreblian; Dan Beyer of Mars Petcare; Ray Coss of Nissan North America; Rosa Gonzales of Green for All from Oakland, California; and many other leaders and experts in the business and environmental communities. Almost all were local Tennesseans who are leading the way.

The summit offered three breakout tracks: Green Jobs and Industry, Sustainable TN Policy and Practice, and Greening Education. Music from Barry Sulkin, Susan Shan, and "Mr. Organic" Marvin Butler provided a break for busy participants.

The policy priority actions identified for 2012 were: 1) Pass the TN Scenic Vistas Bill to ban mountaintop removal mining; 2) Support growth of clean energy markets, energy conservation and green jobs; 3) Prevent the building of new nuclear power plants and transportation of nuclear waste to TN landfills; 4) Pass a resolution requiring TVA to have a renewable portfolio standard; and 5) Restructure the Air Control Board to improve representation of health and quality of life concerns.

The practice priority actions for individuals and organizations were: 1) Conduct a home energy audit, then join the local Climate Action Team and/or become an advocate with the TN Climate Protection Campaign; 2) Recycle, compost and reduce waste; 3) Improve and increase food security through local and sustainable production; 4) Support and use state and local parks, greenways and blueways; and 5) Join and support TVA's Green Power Switch program.

The conference adopted a goal of zero waste and was able to almost reach that goal through effective pre-event planning, reusing, recycling and composting.

The summit brought 200 Tennesseans together to network, share successes, identify challenges, and help move our world toward a more sustainable future. We discussed our challenging environmental, political and economic realities. We looked straight into the heart of our current global problems and found inspiration and hope in working together to find appropriate, long lasting solutions.

One of the most important actions individuals can take coming out of the summit is to sign the Sustainable Tennessee Agenda. The agenda will be presented to the Tennessee Legislature and media at a press conference on January 25 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sierra Club members are strongly encouraged to attend. Our goal is to have 200 signatures on the agenda to show legislators a strong and broad support base. Please sign the agenda today at [www.sustainabletn.org](http://www.sustainabletn.org).



Photo by Steven Sondheim



Photo by Gretchen Hagle



Photo by Steven Sondheim



Photo by Gretchen Hagle

## Attention Teachers, Parents, Grandparents, Retirees: Volunteer to Teach Children about Our Environment

By Joy Mayfield

I don't suppose I'm the only one worried about the future. I don't imagine I stand alone in my feelings of grave disappointment in the leaders of our nation. I'm quite certain we all share feelings of helplessness as our country seems sucked into an ever escalating downward spiral into some abyss that has no name and an unknown terminus.

Recently I decided I could no longer be consumed by these negative feelings and had to do something, so I decided to call a neighbor who teaches third grade. When I asked her if I could talk to her students about birds, she jumped at the offer. I surmised that as a member of both the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club for years, I had amassed enough knowledge to surely pass along to third graders.

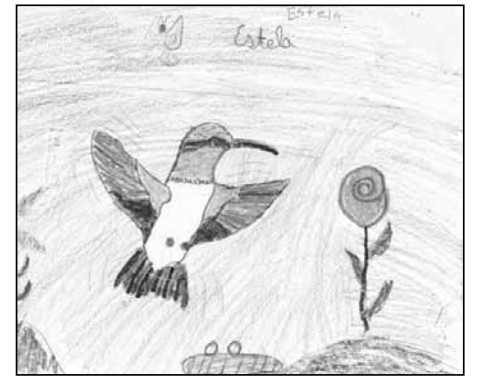
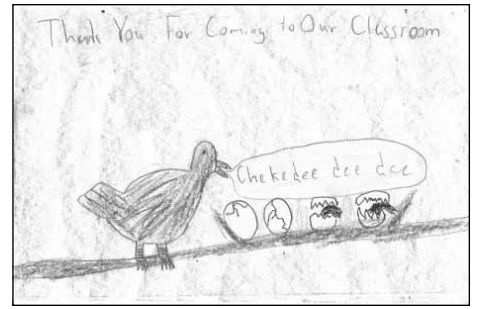
My neighbor affirmed what I already knew: That our public schools are grossly under-funded and have no money available for field trips or guest speakers anymore. Teachers bear a heavy load. We as Sierra Club members can help! I've given five presentations in the month of November on "bird watching" to third graders at Stratton Elementary School. I have a captive audience every single time. I teach them bird calls, bird identification, show them nests I've collected over the years and bring them "bird food" to try. What they enjoy the most is writing with turkey feathers and ink. At the end of the class I give them a "test" to see how many birds they have learned. The winner gets a prize (a quill of their own or a pair of children's binoculars).

One of the third grade teachers informed me that learning about birds, recycling, and trees—the particular subjects I feel qualified enough to teach—are all subjects that are part of the elementary school curriculum, so these classroom visits I make are an adjunct, not an interruption, to their regular studies.

Unfortunately my full-time job precludes visiting more classrooms. Therefore, I am making this plea for anyone reading this article to contact their neighborhood public school and volunteer. I can tell you the need and desire for our volunteer help is palpable. The teachers welcome the reprieve from teaching. The children love a new face. We, as Sierra Club members, have a responsibility to the next generation if we want them to preserve and protect our planet and carry on in our stead.

Not only will all the energy you expend teaching children return to you manifold, but you will also feel you are doing something positive for our future. Let Congress continue to bicker, dither, and fail to act responsibly. Congress, in fact, should meet with third graders. They could use a refresher course in "getting along well with others."

Contact me if you need help getting started ([joymayfield@comcast.net](mailto:joymayfield@comcast.net) or 615-851-1192).



## Get Ready for Spring Retreat at Sterchi Lodge

The Tennessee Chapter 2012 Spring Retreat and Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Sterchi Lodge on April 27-29. In the Highlands, spring will just be starting to flush out leaves and wildflowers. Prices are low with bunk house accommodations for 42 people, including breakfasts and Saturday Night Dinner. Attendees need to bring their own linens or sleeping bag, towels plus Saturday & Sunday lunches and beverages.

Hosted by Watauga Group Sierra Club. Please confirm your reservation and omnivore or vegetarian preference with Gloria Griffith at [Gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:Gla4797@embarqmail.com) or 1-423-727-4797.

Early Registration Price until April 20: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single-day-only price with no lodging: Sat-\$20; Sun-\$10

(Children up to 15 attend free.)

SPECIAL: ½ price for first-time attendees!

A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the Chapter Treasurer, Michael Varnell, at [rmvarnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmvarnell@bellsouth.net)

### Silent Auction

Plan to participate in the Defenders Silent Auction by bringing items to donate plus bidding early and often. The Silent Auction benefits our chapter's lobbying and legislative program.

Sterchi Lodge is located on a mountaintop along the Tennessee-North Carolina state line about 80 miles from Knoxville. It borders both the Pisgah National Forest and the Cherokee National Forest. Hiking is available on the Appalachian trail, which is located ½ mile from the lodge on Max Patch Mountain. 360 panoramic video from top of Max Patch may be viewed here <http://youtu.be/q3F9fKPdVQ>

The nearest towns to Sterchi Lodge are Del Rio, Tenn., and Hot Springs, N.C.

The driveway is marked with both addresses:

-5000 Round Mountain Road, Del Rio, Tennessee

-6303 Max Patch Road, Hot Springs, North Carolina

Directions FROM KNOXVILLE:

Take Interstate 40 East through Newport and across the North Carolina state line. Take the first North Carolina exit (Exit 7 - Harmon Den). Turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp—the road turns to gravel almost immediately. Drive approximately 6.8 miles and make a sharp left turn just past a brown forestry sign. You will also see a sign pointing to Max Patch at this turn. Drive approximately 2 more miles, passing the Max Patch Trailhead on the right and a large pond with a boardwalk also on the right. The driveway to the Lodge is on the left, approximately 2/10 of a mile past the pond.

## Volunteers Needed for Phase II Tree Planting

By Joy Mayfield

Twenty-three volunteers from the Sierra Club, Sound Forest and White's Creek High School came out Sat., Nov. 19 to help plant trees on school grounds. We planted tulip poplar, oak, sycamore, plum and persimmon trees.

In January we will finish what we started with Phase II, planting sycamore, sassafras, pear and hickory trees for carbon sequestration, food and shelter for wildlife, and a shady spot for students to gather.

If you share an interest in restoring the tree canopy Nashville has lost from tornados and construction or are interested in cooling our city, cleaning the air, cutting storm water costs and saving energy, please consider helping us plant trees in January. It's great aerobic exercise, good fellowship and sometimes there's even free coffee and donuts (Thanks to Starbucks and Suzanne Petrey). Contact me at [joymayfield@comcast.net](mailto:joymayfield@comcast.net) or 615-851-1192 if you would like to help us.



Photo Credit: Betsy Garber

## Sierra Club Impacts UN Climate Conference in Durban, South Africa

By Steven Sondheim, Conference Attendee

In late November 2011, the national Sierra Club sent a delegation to Durban, South Africa to influence the yearly United Nation climate negotiations. Our specific mission this year was to stem the tide of dirty and dangerous energy, including nuclear, and to support the rise of renewable energy to power our future.

We connected with partners fighting dangerous coal development around the globe, promoted renewable energy solutions, worked on climate finance, addressed gender issues, and built the international youth movement. Some members of the delegation even got a head start, arriving in Durban early for the Conference of Youth <http://youthclimate.org/coy7> and Dirty Energy Week. <http://sierraclub.org/international>

Here is a sampling of Sierra Club activities that happened in Durban:

- Partnered with Greenpeace International on “Coal, the Dirty Truth,” discussing the true costs of coal, revealing that it is not cheap, it does not relieve energy poverty and it is time to invest in the renewable energy that can safely power our future.
- Joined a climate justice rally to call on delegates to work for equitable solutions, as their communities are already feeling the devastating effects of climate change.
- Met with Leave It In The Ground (LINGO) coalition to unify the struggle against the growth of the fossil economy.
- Presented the health impacts of deadly coal pollution at the Climate Health Summit [www.climateandhealthcare.org](http://www.climateandhealthcare.org)
- Participated in the Global Day of Action <http://www.c17.org.za/global-day-of-action>
- Hosted a Move Beyond Coal workshop [WWW.BEYONDCOAL.ORG](http://WWW.BEYONDCOAL.ORG)  
[WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/COAL/NARRATIVES](http://WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/COAL/NARRATIVES) with GroundWork South Africa.
- Discussed environmental/labor alliances at Blue-Green’s panel at the World of Work.
- Staged visibility events to highlight the dangers of coal and the need for action, including a funeral for coal and a heads-in-the-sands photo op.
- Held the first ever Sierra Club booth <http://action.sierraclub.org/cop17> inside the conference to discuss who we are and what we do to give the Sierra Club an international presence. And much, much more! Stay tuned to <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass> and to delegation blog <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/cop17-climate-conference> to get the latest info.

The Sierra Club wasn’t just burying coal, we also were working to build a clean energy future and deliver power to the 1.3 billion people without access to electricity. Former executive director and chairman of the Sierra Club, Carl Pope, co-chaired an energy access discussion with Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and United Nations high commissioner for human rights. They countered the idea that coal is necessary to provide energy access to everyone.

There are two fallacies that people too often believe: that to provide electricity to the rural poor we must build out the grid and that renewable electricity and solar are too expensive. Universal access to the grid is simply economically impossible, which even the International Energy Agency and the government of India now admit. Meanwhile, people without energy access spend up to \$8 per kilowatt hour on kerosene, far more than the price of distributed, localized renewable energy.

The Student Sierra Coalition (SSC) joined the youth briefing with US delegates Todd Stern and Jonathan Pershing who told them, "You have to stay engaged. Your voice has to not be just in one place." The SSC presented him with a Beyond Coal t-shirt for his daughter who is about their age. Later, the SSC organized a meeting for US youth delegates to network and discuss shared strategy.

Steve Herz, Sierra’s finance specialist, played a critical role in drafting a letter signed by 16 groups to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The letter challenges the U.S. negotiating position on legal mandates (agreeing to legally binding limits on carbon), the green climate fund (money for countries that can’t afford climate actions) and long-term finance for mechanisms both to mitigate climate change and to help adapt to the devastating effects that some will suffer.

There was buzz around the “Unclear on the Concept: How Can the World Bank Group Lead on Climate Finance without an Energy Strategy?” report released by nine environmental groups, including the Sierra Club. We learned that both the World Bank and many leading banks are financing big coal, big oil, and big nuclear in the name of climate change. In addition we attended a World Coal Association session on “Coal in a Carbon Constrained World” where we learned to our surprise that some international companies are considering a transition beyond coal.

The Sierra Club held two funerals for coal to demonstrate that coal is no longer cheap or reliable anywhere in the world. In the U.S. we have turned away from coal, in large part because the Sierra Club and our allies have stopped virtually all of the coal-fired power plants proposed by the Bush Administration. We came to Durban to ally with other civil society groups around the world in our campaign to confront the dominance of the coal, oil and nuclear industries.

Our first funeral was at the Speakers Corner, the public space designated for protest. We showed our solidarity with activists from around the world who gathered to protest World Bank financing for fossil fuels and nuclear plants. Our black coffin for coal with its four pallbearers was followed by a grieving widow, who looked suspiciously like our six-foot-plus national Sierra Club board member Jim Dougherty. Bringing up the rear was the clean energy technology of the future, windmills and solar panels, and our student delegation leading coal and climate chants. We re-assembled to do a smaller procession in the fifteen- by- nine foot section the Secretariat allotted us inside the conference. There, in full view of the media, we reminded negotiators of the devastating effect coal has on both the climate and on human health.

Stay tuned for additional analysis of the results of the conference in the next issue of the Tennes-Sierran and the Chapter website <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/>



### Moving?



Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

My new address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041,  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group  
**Tennes-Sierran**  
3340 Perimeter Hill Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Permit No. 3225